



February 25, 2005

PRESS RELEASE

Ensuring Accountability and Transparency in Aceh Reconstruction

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is working closely with the Government of Indonesia's Supreme Audit Agency Board (BPK) to ensure that the accounting and auditing responsibility of managing the billions of dollars that have been pledged by donors and the private sector is carried out accurately and transparently.

At the invitation of the Government of Indonesia, the U.S. government, working through USAID, is providing expert advisors from the U.S. General Accounting Office (the U.S. analogue of the BPK) to work together to ensure accountability, transparency, and efficient use of the funds.

The Indonesian effort will be lead by Dr. Anwar Nasution, former Senior Deputy Governor of Bank Indonesia. Mr. Vic Rezendes, former Managing Director of Strategic Issues at the GAO, will be helping develop and implement an Aceh audit framework that will depend heavily upon new and more sophisticated engineering, contract management and procurement skills.

USAID Mission Director William Frej noted that this effort is an important example of the excellent cooperation that exists in between our two countries to ensure that the reconstruction of Aceh proceeds as quickly and effectively as possible.

For more information on USAID activities, please contact Betina Moreira at 3435-9424 or bmoreira@usaid.gov

###